

Current Claims Schedule

1-59. (Cancelled)

60. (Currently Amended) A method of electronically negotiating an END, sold by a seller to a buyer, ~~in which the buyer splits the END electronically into two or more parts and then negotiates those parts separately to one or more further buyers without the involvement of a trusted third party (TTP).~~ the method comprising:

providing said seller with seller tamper-resistant document carrier hardware, said seller tamper-resistant document carrier hardware having its own public-secret key pair, and wherein said secret key is not accessible to said seller, said seller tamper-resistant document carrier bearing said END and a signature calculated using said secret key;

providing said buyer with buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware, said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware having its own public-secret key pair, and wherein said secret key is not accessible to said buyer;

transferring said END from said seller tamper-resistant document carrier hardware to said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware;

splitting said END electronically in said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware into two or more new ENDs each having a value such that the sum of the values of the new ENDs adds up to a value of said END;

digitally signing said splitting using said secret key of said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware to generate a splitting signature; and

negotiating said new ENDs separately to one or more further buyers without the involvement of a trusted third party (TTP).

61. (Currently Amended) ~~A- The method as claimed in claim 60, in which each part is subjected to the digital signature of the document carrier hardware of said buyer which effects the splitting.~~ wherein said digitally signing of said splitting comprises subjecting each said new END to said secret key of said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware.

1 62. (New) The method as claimed in claim 60 wherein said END and said new ENDs each have  
2 an associated sequence number signed by a said secret key.

1 63. (New) The method as claimed in claim 62 wherein said seller and said buyer tamper-  
2 resistant document carrier hardware each have a document carrier identifier signed by said secret  
3 key.

1 64. (New) The method as claimed in claim 60 wherein said seller tamper-resistant document  
2 carrier hardware bears an issuing signature, and wherein said transferring includes transferring  
3 said issuing signature from said seller tamper-resistant document carrier hardware to said buyer  
4 tamper-resistant document carrier hardware.

1 65. (New) The method as claimed in claim 64 further comprising deleting said issuing signature  
2 after said transferring.

1 66. (New) Tamper-resistant document carrier hardware, said document carrier hardware having  
2 its own public-secret key pair, and wherein said secret key is not accessible to the owner of said  
3 tamper-resistant document carrier hardware, wherein said tamper-resistant document carrier  
4 hardware is configured to: store an END protected by a signature calculated using said secret  
5 key; split said END electronically into two or more new ENDs each having a value such that the  
6 sum of the values of the new ENDs adds up to a value of said END; and negotiate said new  
7 ENDs separately to one or more further buyers without the involvement of a trusted third party  
8 (TTP).